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July 24, 2014

**Long Beach Man Charged with Rape,
Kidnapping, Robbery, Other Crimes**

A 20-year-old man accused of sexually attacking two women pleaded not guilty today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Raymond Howard (10/16/93) of Long Beach is charged with a dozen felonies: two counts of kidnapping to commit another crime, one count of rape, one count of forcible oral copulation, two counts of criminal threats, two counts of second-degree robbery, one count of assault with a firearm, one count of attempted human trafficking, one count of aggravated mayhem, and one count of assault with intent to commit a felony in case NA099592.

The defendant appeared before Judge Laura Laesecke at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach and his bail was set at \$5.65 million.

Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Zepeda, who is prosecuting the case, said on June 18 the defendant met a woman and reportedly tried to rape her at Signal Hill Park. Although the victim was physically assaulted, she fought back and escaped, the prosecutor added.

Less than two weeks later, on June 29 in Long Beach, Howard allegedly followed a woman from a bus stop into an alley where he beat and raped her. When a car drove by, the victim broke free from Howard and ran to a nearby hospital, the prosecutor said.

As a result of the brutal attacks, several law enforcement agencies began a joint investigation and were able to identify Howard as the suspect.

On July 3, Howard was arrested at his home and charged less than a week later.

The defendant's next court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 21 for a pre-hearing conference at the Long Beach Courthouse in Department S01.

If convicted as charged, he faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Long Beach and Signal Hill police departments.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.